

**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
- GOVERNOR -



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## **ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD**

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### **INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION REPORT**

**TO:** Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

**FROM:** Investigative Division

**RE:** Case: 20-81

Complainant(s): Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

Respondent(s): Roger Litchfield, DVM (License: 1197)

#### **SUMMARY:**

Complaint Received at Board Office: 2/19/20

Board Discussion: 5/20/20

#### **APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:**

Laws as Amended August 2018

(Lime Green); Rules as Revised

September 2013 (Yellow)

On February 19, 2020, the Board voted to open an investigation with respect to Respondent's conduct after reviewing results from two premises inspections conducted at Western Arizona Humane Society. Repeat violations were noted on the second inspection, which the Board office was advised had been corrected.

Respondent is the responsible veterinarian for the premises.

## PROPOSED 'FINDINGS of FACT':

1. On June 20, 2019, a premises inspection was conducted and the following potential violations were cited:
  - a. R3-11-801 (A) Need to notify clients that prescriptions can be notified at an outside pharmacy;
  - b. R3-11-704 (4) Dirty surgical table and surgical table drain;
  - c. R3-11-702 Need to ensure an adequate amount of surgery packs are available for the amount of surgeries performed;
  - d. R3-11-502 (D) Expired supplies -- syringes;
  - e. R3-11-502 (H) (2) Need to record examinations of animals that are having surgery within 6 hours of the procedure;
  - f. R3-11-502 (H) (3) Need to record animals' HR and RR immediately after giving an general anesthetic;
  - g. R3-11-502 (J) (2) Expired controlled substances on premises -Tramadol, and missing Tramadol - 400+ tablets;
  - h. R3-11-502 (K) (2) No controlled substance inventory log;
  - i. R3-11-502 (K) (3) Controlled substance dispensing log does not contain all required information;
  - j. R3-11-502 (L) (4) Need to examine feral cats (when anesthetized) and document in the medical record;
  - k. R3-11-502 (L) (5) Need to record animals' tentative or definitive diagnosis in the medical record;
  - l. R3-11-502 (L) (7) Need to record the route of administration of vaccines in the medical record;
  - m. R3-11-502 (L) (9) Results of diagnostic lab tests do not match with patient; and
  - n. 32-2281 (A) (1) (a) Need to put dispensing DVMs name on prescription label.
  
2. On July 3, 2019, a statement from Mr. Steven Jenkins was received stating that the potential violations have been corrected and examples were submitted where applicable.
  
3. On January 13, 2020, Western Arizona Humane Society was re-inspected and potential violations were identified, some of which were repeated violations, or similar violations, from the previous inspection conducted on June 20, 2019, which were reportedly corrected. The potential violations are as follows:
  - a. R3-11-704 (4) Dirty surgical table and surgical table drain (**REPEAT**);
  - b. R3-11-502(B) Need emergency information on after hours voice mail. Name, address and phone number of a referral emergency facility;
  - c. R3-11-502 (D) Expired supplies – Blood tubes, IV catheters, testing supplies, Troy biologic (**REPEAT**);
  - d. R3-11-502(E) Need consistency documenting that discharge instructions have been provided;
  - e. R3-11-502 (H) (2) Need to record examinations of animals that are having surgery within 6 hours of the procedure (**REPEAT**);
  - f. R3-11-502 (H) (3) Need to record animals' HR and RR immediately after giving an general anesthetic (**REPEAT**);

- g. R3-11-502(H)(4) Recovering animals not in sight or monitored during recovery;
- h. R3-11-502 (J) (2) Expired controlled substances on premises -- Buprenorphine 60mLs and Phenobarbital 97.2mg (**REPEAT**);
- i. R3-11-502 (K) (2) Controlled substance inventory log does not contain all required information (**REPEAT**);
- j. R3-11-502 (K) (3) Controlled substance dispensing log does not contain all required information (**REPEAT**); and
- k. R3-11-502(L)(10)(11) Need consistency entering signatures of DVM and staff making entries into the medical records.

4. On January 29, 2020, the Board office received a statement that the potential violations have been corrected and examples were submitted where applicable.

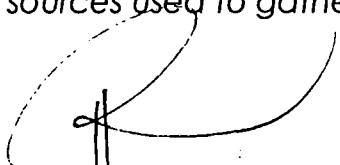
5. On February 19, 2020, the Board voted to open an investigation with respect to Respondent's conduct after reviewing the results from the premises inspections conducted at Western Arizona Humane Society on June 20, 2019 and January 13, 2020.

6. On February 25, 2020, a Letter of Inquiry was sent to Respondent notifying him of the investigation, asking him to respond to the Board's concerns of the repeat violations at the premises inspections.

7. On March 16, 2020, Respondent's response to the investigation was received. According to Respondent, since the last inspection, they have hired more technical staff, including one CVT. Additionally, another veterinarian was hired and is the lead veterinarian; he has been working with Respondent, is his advisor on policies and procedures that are the Board's standards.

8. Respondent apologized for the inadequacies and took responsibility for them. He stated that he was obviously not in control. After the first inspection, the corrections were made however he did not continue to oversee that everything remained in good standing.

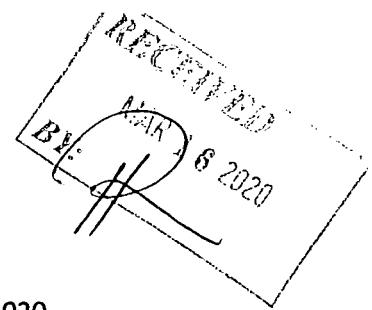
*The information contained in this report was obtained from the case file, which includes the complaint, the respondent's response, any consulting veterinarian or witness input, and any other sources used to gather information for the investigation.*



Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT  
Investigative Division

Roger Litchfield  
2761 Paseo Dorado  
Lake Havasu City, AZ, 86406

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Dear Ms. Riendeau,

20-81, In Re; Roger Litchfield, DVM

It is with great regret and sincere apology that I am responding to your letter. The transition of being the Shelter Veterinarian, performing surgeries on Shelter animals to administering care to Private animals was a huge task and I obviously was not in control of many items that I should have been. I realize that being the Veterinarian of Record I am responsible and I have been neglectful, and I have placed our clinic and The Western Arizona Humane Society in a very difficult situation.

After your first visit, myself and my Tech did correct our problems, but I did not continue to oversee that everything remained in good standing. Hence, when you The Board returned on the second occasion some items were still correct but others were not of the standard that they should have been.

Since your last visit we have hired more Techs, one being a CVT and have now another licensed Veterinarian who is our Lead Vet. He has been working with me, is my Advisor on policies and procedures that are the AZ Board standard.

We have forwarded our paperwork to you which I am sure you have received copy of. The Western Arizona Humane Society has built a beautiful Animal Care Facility and Veterinary clinic that this community is very proud of. I as the Associate Veterinarian can assure you that I intend doing everything within my power to have our clinic in the manner that you require. We have an amazing new team that truly cares about the animals, our organization and our community.

Below I have addressed all the discrepancies and procedures that were failing.

In response to:

R3-11-704 (4): Protocols have been reestablished for cleaning in the surgical room, especially the surgery tables. More attention paid to detail. Tables are cleaned in between surgeries as needed and deep cleaned at the end of the day. Our CVT makes sure tables are cleaned thoroughly.

R3-11-502 (B): Voicemail has been updated adding the information for after hour's emergency clinic nearby.

R3-11-502 (D): All expired drugs have been properly discarded.

R3-11-502 (E): Discharge instructions from surgeries are given to the client verbally and a handwritten copy sent with them. The instructions are scanned into our system with documentation that they were sent in the medical notes.

R3-11-502(H) (2) All surgeries have a documented exam including TPR, weight and diagnoses no more than 6 hours prior to anesthesia. This is on anesthesia form and in medical records in the system.

R3-11-502 (H) (3): We are very careful to take and document HR and RR immediately after anesthetizing patients and every 15 mins during procedure.

R3-11-502(H) (4): We have an area closer to our treatment area where the doctors and techs can closely monitor patients recovering from anesthesia.

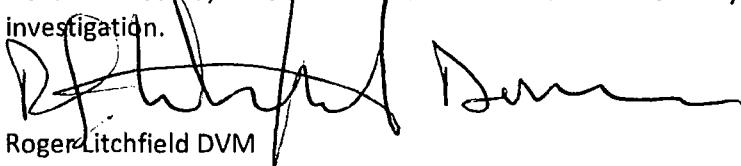
R3-11-502(J) (2): Covanta was contacted for correct disposal of expired controlled drugs.

R3-11-502(K) (2): Inventory system shows the distributor and invoice number.

R3-11-502() (3): Separate logs for Shelter and public animals. Information is consistent with pet's name, owner name and initials of person logging with the physicians initials.

R3-11-502(L) (10) (11): All medical records have the3 doctor's signature on paper and in the system.

Once again, I offer The Board my profound apologies for the representation I have given on behalf of our organization, and can assure you that my inadequacies should not reflect on my team. I am the Doctor of Record, have served as a Veterinarian for over forty years, and take responsibility for this investigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Litchfield DVM".

Roger Litchfield DVM